

**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney*

*Eastern District of Virginia*

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release  
Alexandria, Virginia  
March 19, 2003**

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today that Brian Tivnan, 39 years old, of Sammamish, Washington, pled guilty today in United States District Court in Alexandria to theft of government property stemming from his participation in a scheme with his sister, Kathleen Brassell, to use Brassell's Department of Defense IMPAC charge card to pay for over \$1,711,000 of fictitious purchases from Infinite Network Solutions, a company Tivnan formed in Seattle solely to facilitate the scheme. Tivnan faces a maximum sentence of ten years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000 and full restitution. Judge Leonie M. Brinkema set sentencing for June 13, 2003.

From May 1999 through August 2002, Brassell, the civilian director of the Pentagon's Graphics and Presentation Division who was responsible for producing graphics and artwork for Pentagon briefings, used her IMPAC charge card to make over 520 false purchases of goods and services from Infinite Network Solutions. Tivnan delivered no goods or services to the Department of Defense from Infinite Network Solutions for any of the alleged sales charged to Brassell's IMPAC card. Tivnan and Brassell simply split the Pentagon's payments. Tivnan paid Brassell her share of the proceeds in the form of cash and cashier's checks.

In order to conceal the fictitious IMPAC charge card purchases, Brassell created false invoices which she provided to auditors from the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General during an audit in June 2002. In one instance, Brassell submitted false invoices from Infinite Network Solutions for graphics and artwork for the Pentagon Family Assistance Center, which was created to provide counseling and support to victims and survivors of the September 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon. In this instance, the fraudulent invoices falsely billed over \$136,000 for graphic support for the October 11, 2001, Pentagon Memorial Service and for "biography boards" which purportedly had provided personal information about each of the victims of the Pentagon attack.

Tivnan was a fugitive since December 19, 2002, and was found living under an assumed name in Phoenix, Arizona, on February 27, 2003. He was arrested by a special agent of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service.

On November 6, 2002, Brassell was convicted of theft of government property for her role in this scheme and was sentenced to 37 months imprisonment and full restitution.

This case is part of a continuing effort to prosecute IMPAC charge card fraud and abuse within the Department of Defense and other agencies. Since 2001, the United States Attorney has obtained convictions in over ten cases involving misuse of government credit cards.

Mr. McNulty stated: "This defendant, along with his sister, abused the trust vested in her to secure services on behalf of the Department of Defense. This office will continue to aggressively prosecute those who abuse their official positions for personal gain."

The case was investigated by the United States Attorney's Office and the Inspector General, Department of Defense, Defense Criminal Investigative Service. This case was presented by Assistant United States Attorney Robert C. Erickson.

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